

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A rubber composition comprising
 - a. an elastomer selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, polyisoprene rubber, styrene butadiene rubber, polybutadiene rubber, butyl rubber, halobutyl rubber, crosslinked polyethylene rubber, neoprenes, chlorinated polyethylene rubbers, silicone rubbers, and mixtures thereof;
 - b. one or more antidegradants; and
 - c. surfactant containing a thio functionality.
2. (Original) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein the surfactant further comprises a thioether.
3. (Original) The rubber composition of Claim 2, wherein the surfactant further comprises an ether thioether of the formula:
$$\text{H}_9\text{C}_4\text{-(O-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{)}_n\text{-O-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-S-CH}_2\text{-O-(CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-)}_n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9.$$
4. (Previously Presented) An elastomer based rubber composition comprising per 100 parts of elastomer, about 0.02 to about 5 parts per hundred rubber of a surfactant containing a thio functionality.
5. (Previously Presented) An elastomer based rubber composition comprising per 100 parts of elastomer, about 0.02 to about 5 parts per hundred rubber of a thioether surfactant.
6. (Original) The rubber composition of Claim 4, wherein the elastomer has unsaturation in the polymer backbone.
7. (Original) The rubber composition of Claim 4 wherein the surfactant is an ether thioether of the formula:
$$\text{H}_9\text{C}_4\text{-(O-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{)}_n\text{-O-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-S-CH}_2\text{-O-(CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-)}_n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9.$$

8. (Currently Amended) A vulcanized tire sidewall comprising
- a. an elastomer selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, polyisoprene rubber, styrene butadiene rubber, polybutadiene rubber, butyl rubber, halobutyl rubber, crosslinked polyethylene rubber, neoprenes, chlorinated polyethylene rubbers, silicone rubbers, and mixtures thereof;
 - b. one or more antidegradants; and
 - c. based on 100 part of elastomer about 0.02-10 parts of a surfactant containing a thio functionality.
9. (Currently Amended) A tire comprising a vulcanized sidewall component comprising
- a. an elastomer selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, polyisoprene rubber, styrene butadiene rubber, polybutadiene rubber, butyl rubber, halobutyl rubber, crosslinked polyethylene rubber, neoprenes, chlorinated polyethylene rubbers, silicone rubbers, and mixtures thereof;
 - b. one or more antidegradants; and
 - c. a surfactant containing a thio functionality.
10. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a film on the exposed surface of vulcanized rubber sidewall, comprising:
- adding about 0.02-10 parts of a surfactant containing a thio functionality to a rubber composition,
 - curing said rubber composition,
 - exposing the cured rubber composition to ozone;
 - wherein the rubber composition comprises an elastomer selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, polyisoprene rubber, styrene butadiene rubber, polybutadiene rubber, butyl rubber, halobutyl rubber, crosslinked polyethylene rubber, neoprenes, chlorinated polyethylene rubbers, silicone rubbers, and mixtures thereof; and
 - one or more antidegradants.

11. (Previously Presented) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein the elastomer contains functional groups.
12. (Previously Presented) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises at least one reinforcing filler.
13. (Previously Presented) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises sulfur.
14. (Previously Presented) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein the antidegradant comprises a wax.
15. (Previously Presented) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein the elastomer is selected from the group consisting of: natural rubber, polyisoprene rubber, styrene butadiene rubber, and polybutadiene rubber.
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Previously Presented) The tire of Claim 9, wherein the surfactant containing a thio functionality is present in a film on the sidewall component.
18. (Previously Presented) The vulcanized tire sidewall of Claim 8, further comprising one or more antidegradants.
19. (Previously Presented) The vulcanized tire sidewall of Claim 8, wherein the antidegradant comprises a wax.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising adding one or more antidegradants to the rubber composition.